



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS ARE HIGHEST PAYING IN MONTANA

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate rose slightly to 2.3% in May and now shares the lowest rate in the nation with Idaho. The U.S. rate was 4.5%, while unemployment rates for other regional states showed North Dakota at 3.3%, South Dakota at 3.2%, Wyoming at 3.3%, and Idaho at 2.3%.

Occupational employment and wage statistics for Montana were released in May. The data showed that Psychiatrists were paid \$81.33 per hour, which was the highest median rate in the state. Overall, health care occupations comprised nine out of the ten highest paid jobs. The only non-health care occupation to make the top ten was air traffic controllers, who were paid a mean hourly wage of \$44.38.

"By 2025 Montana is projected to be the fifth oldest state in the country with almost 25 percent of the population 65 years and older," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Coupled with life expectancy rising to 74 years for men and 80 years for women, Montana's wages must remain competitive to fill present and projected health care jobs."

(more)

The consumer price index increased 0.7% between April and May, following a 0.4% increase the previous month. Montana employment grew by 200 jobs to 445,700. Employment across all industries remained constant for the month, with no significant gains or losses seen in any sector. Total U.S. non-farm employment grew by 157,000.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

The June 2007 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday July 20th, 2007

The May 2006 Occupation Employment Statistics Publication will be available at the end of June. Please contact Julie O'Connor for more information at juoconnor@mt.gov.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121

May 2006 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates are available at:
www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcst.htm